

teacher in this matter. He preferred government by affection and reason rather than by corporal punishment. A full discussion followed, led by Mr. T. O. Steele. The third subject, "How may the usefulness of our Association be increased?" was ably handled by Mr. Morgan. He advocated one yearly meeting of the Association, to last three days, and in addition to the County Association to have district associations to meet also once in the year. The ideas of the Inspector were embodied in a resolution and adopted by the Association, and a committee appointed to arrange the districts, whose report was adopted. The fourth subject was "The advisability of appointing a non-political superintendent of education and council of public instruction" by Mr. J. M. Hunter. He thought that a change in the system would be for the benefit of education, that the various schemes would be better matured before being brought before Parliament, that at present educational matters were discussed from a party point of view, and that under present circumstances the Minister of Education must necessarily be an ardent politician and favor his party though intending to be impartial. The chief superintendent should be merely an executive officer to carry out the views of the council of public instruction. Mr. Hunter's view of the matter was strongly supported by Inspector Morgan and opposed by T. O. Steele and others. The taking of a vote was postponed until Saturday morning, and resulted in a majority in favor of Mr. Hunter's resolution. The fifth subject taken up was Music, by Messrs. Morgan and Garvin, who exemplified by means of a class of young pupils the advantages and simplicity of the "Tonic sol fa system," and advised its introduction into our schools. A resolution making the membership fee 25 cents, and giving each member the privilege of taking from one to three school journals by paying one-half of their cost, was adopted—cost of any one journal not to exceed \$1. The next subject was "Teachers' Certificates." In the absence of Mr. Williams, Inspector Morgan took up the part entitled "General character of the examinations." He showed that it would be much better to make the standard for 3rd class certificates somewhat lower but insist on a percentage of 75 or 80 in each subject. Views supported by the Association. The next point, "Extensions and permits," was taken up by Mr. T. O. Steele, who moved, seconded by Mr. Hunter, "That the system of granting permits and extensions has a very injurious tendency, both as regards the schools and teachers, and is therefore detrimental to the progress of education." Mr. Steele showed that the granting of permits and extensions lowered the status of the profession, and inflicted an injury upon teachers generally by keeping down salaries, and was a fraud upon the public. He thought that a 3rd class certificate should not be renewed more than once, and then on the same basis as at first granted. He considered that it would have been much better for the Minister of Education to have extended the 3rd class certificates now expiring for one or two years to give time for preparation for a new examination on an educational basis, than to place Inspectors in the very undesirable position of adding marks to those made by candidates. The resolution was discussed and adopted by the Association. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Inspector Morgan; vice-president, Mr. Hay; secretary-treasurer, Mr. Jennison; committee of management, Messrs. Sneath and Steele and Misses E. King, L. Lee, and E. Applebee; delegates to Provincial Association, Messrs. Hay and Steele.

ONTARIO.—The twenty-fourth annual convention of the Ontario Teachers' Association opened at the Education Department Tuesday, August 12. There was a good attendance of teachers throughout the Province. Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, President of the Association, occupied the chair. The meeting opened with reading a portion of Scripture, followed by prayer by Mr. Robert McQueen, of Iroquois. After the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed, Mr. J. H. Smith, of Ancaster, was appointed recording secretary. The different sections of the Association were then formed, as follows:—High School Section, H. J. Strang, Goderich, Chairman; Public School Inspectors' Section, Mr. D. A. Maxwell, Amherstburg, Chairman; and Public School Section, Mr. James Duncan, Windsor, Chairman. The Treasurer's statement showed the finances of the Association to be in a flourishing condition. The meeting then adjourned till 2 p.m. *Afternoon Session.*—There was a larger attendance in the afternoon than in the morning. The President took the chair at two o'clock, and after routine proceedings Mr. James L. Hughes, Public School Inspector for the city of Toronto, read an exhaustive paper on "Industrial Education." By an industrial training he meant anything that would tend to enable the hand to represent more accurately in material form the thoughts of the mind. He held that the sooner the industrial training of a child began the more perfect would be his development. The hand, he said, was the agent of the mind, and formed one of the means by which the mind acquired knowledge. He dwelt for some time upon the good results in the way of industrial education derived from the Kindergarten system of teaching. The child during his first year at school should deal chiefly with real things as he did before he entered school, and he should use things not that he might learn about the things themselves, but that through using them he might incidentally learn new facts, discover new principles, develop his perceptive faculties and de-

fine his conceptions. Industrial drawing should be taught in all the classes. The thanks of the profession were due to the Minister of Education for the progressive and liberal course he had recently adopted in providing free of charge for teachers in Ontario the means of learning how to teach this important subject, by establishing vacation drawing classes in charge of competent and experienced masters. Mr. Hughes exhibited some splendid specimens of work done under the Kindergarten system, such as paper posting, paper folding, sewing on cardboard, etc. Considerable discussion followed among the members of the Association with reference to the paper.

INCREASED LEGISLATIVE AID.

Mr. William McIntosh, of Madoc, said the subject upon which he had been called upon to speak—the Increased Legislative Aid to Public Schools—was ripe for discussion. The Educational system was a State system in part, and indeed it was almost entirely a State system as regards Public Schools. The State aided in the support of Public Schools with the object no doubt of encouraging education. Did the State contribute to the support of the Public Schools in a degree commensurate with the control it exercised over the system? The educational system was instituted by the State, and to a large extent the system had always been in advance of public opinion. What control did the State exercise over the system? The State controlled to a limited extent the people in the erection of Public School buildings. The people were controlled by the State in reference to the qualification of teachers, in regard to the hours of study, in regard to vacations and a great many other things, and they had to abide by it. He found according to the last report of the Minister of Education that the sum of \$251,356 had been given to Public Schools, while the total receipts for the maintenance of Public Schools were \$3,469,990. The grant *per capita* of the school population was a little over fifty cents. The number of teachers in round figures was about 7,000. Would anyone say that the grant of 50 cents per pupil was at all commensurate either with the control the State exercised over the schools or the vast importance of the work done by the Public Schools? He compared the support given to Public Schools with the support given to High Schools and the higher educational branches. The aid to the High Schools during the year was \$84,304, and the total amount received for the support of the High Schools was \$373,000. He did not wish the grant to the High Schools lowered, but he thought the grant to Public Schools might be raised so as to compare favourably with High Schools. The Public Schools were the foundation of higher education. It was the duty of the State and those who controlled the system to attend more particularly to the education of children who were in the first, second, and third classes. He also suggested new regulations with reference to the distribution of the legislative grants. For a great many years the legislative grants had been divided among the municipalities according to the average attendance. This system was fraught with many evils. After some discussion, during which a number of members of the Association gave different opinions with reference to the distribution of the legislative grants, but nearly all being in favor of an increased grant, the following resolution was moved by Mr. A. Campbell, seconded by Mr. A. McKinnon:—"That in the opinion of this Association the legislative and municipal grants should be largely increased and should be apportioned upon the basis of local effort, as shown by the rate on the dollar levied for ordinary school expenses, and by the grade of certificate of the teacher employed, and the character of the school accommodation."

In amendment, it was moved by Mr. J. H. Smith, seconded by Mr. J. R. Miller, "That the whole matter of increased legislative aid to Public Schools, and the method of distributing it, be referred to a Committee composed of the following persons:—Messrs. Fotheringham, McKinnon, Campbell, Burrows, McIntosh, McKee, Dearness, Brown, and Clapp, to report at a future session of this Convention." The amendment was carried, and the Convention adjourned till 8 p.m. *Evening session.*—In the evening, not only was there a very large attendance of teachers, but many prominent citizens also were present. The main feature of the evening was the President's annual address, delivered by Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education and President of the Association.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Hon. G. W. Ross, on rising, was received with loud applause. He said: "When appointed your president a year ago I had no expectation that I should, at the next meeting, be so burdened with official cares as to be almost practically debarred from delivering the annual message expected from your chief officer. It is, however, a source of considerable relief to believe that I can claim your indulgence, inasmuch as the time which might have been spent in preparing an address has been devoted to the interests of the profession in which you are so earnestly engaged. The most noticeable feature in the educational activity of the day is the desire on the part of all civilized nations to educate the whole people, and everywhere the question is asked, 'In what way can we most widely diffuse the benefits of a thorough elementary education?' With this end in view improved methods of teaching are carefully examined in the light of modern experience. Even scientific tests are applied to the operations of the school-room, and by the aid of